Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 AGR-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07

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PROC.E WI KEEMI IIV

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P R 142332Z APR 76 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI PRIORITY AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, TW

SUBJECT: GSP AND LEATHER WEARING APPAREL

REF: STATE 68301

AS WAS INDICATED IN REFTEL, PETITIONS HAVE BEEN FILED WITH THE TRADE POLICY STAFF COMMITTEE (TPSC) REQUESTING THAT TSUS 791.75 LEATHER WEARING APPAREL, AND IN PARTICULAR LEATHER WEARING APPAREL FROM TAIWAN, KOREA AND HONG KONG, BE REMOVED FROM THE LIST OF PRODUCTS ELIGIBLE FOR GSP. IN ORDER TO EVALUATE THE DOMESTIC INDUSTRY'S REQUEST WE NEED TO KNOW AS PRECISELY AS POSSIBLE THE MAGNITUDE AND SOURCE OF THE PROBLEM. WE HAVE LEARNED THAT HONG KONG WILL NOT PROTEST THE REMOVAL OF 791.75 FROM GSP BECAUSE IT IMPORTS TANNED HIDES FROM JAPAN AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ONLY DOES THE CUTTING AND STITCHING IN HONG KONG. IN THE

JUDGMENT OF THE HONG KONG AUTHORITIES, IT DOES NOT, THEREFORE, MEET THE 35 PERCENT VALUE ADDED REQUIREMENT OF THE U.S. GSP. SEE STATE 83604. WE WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF EMBASSY TAIPEI WOULD CONTACT LOCAL INDUSTRY SOURCES AND DETERMINE IF THE SAME PRACTICES ARE FOLLOWED IN TAIWAN OR IF THE HIDES USED IN THE LEATHER WEARING APPAREL INDUSTRY ARE IMPORTED RAW AND TANNED IN TAIWAN.

ALTHOUGH KOREA HAS BEEN EXCLUDED FOR THIS ITEM UNDER THE COMPETITIVE NEED FORMULA, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF EMBASSY SEOUL COULD CONFIRM OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE INDUSTRY IN KOREA IS SIMILAR TO THAT OF HONG KONG. REQUEST REPLY SOONEST. KISSINGER

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